

PATENT APPLICATION

4,7-DISUBSTITUTED INDOLES AND METHODS OF MAKING

Inventors: Phil B. Alper, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 12184
Pepper Tree Lane, Poway, CA 96024

Khanh Linh T. Nguyen, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at
4860 Baroque Terrace, Oceanside, CA 92057

Assignee: IRM LLC
located at c/o Sophia House,
48 Church Street,
Hamilton, Bermuda

Entity: LARGE

4,7-DISUBSTITUTED INDOLES AND METHODS OF MAKING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[01] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/392,804 filed June 28, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[02] Combinatorial chemistry has become a powerful tool for drug discovery in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Generally speaking, combinatorial chemistry is defined as the repetitive and systematic covalent attachment of different structural moieties to one another to produce a mixture of numerous distinct molecular entities or target molecules (*i.e.*, combinatorial libraries). Desired target molecules include for example, peptides, oligonucleotides, and small organic molecules. Frequently, combinatorial chemistry is utilized to generate a group of structurally related analogs, which can then be evaluated to establish structure-activity relationships (SAR) and to optimize biological efficacy.

[03] The prominence of the indole nucleus in medicinally important natural products and synthetic pharmaceuticals can hardly be overstated. (*see*, Gribble, in *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry II*, 2:207 (1996); Ban, *et al.*, *N. Med. Res. Rev.*, 8(2):231 (1998); Saxton, *The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds*; Wiley; New York, Vol. 25, Part IV (1983).) As a result, the chemistry of the substituted indole has received an enormous amount of attention. (*see*, Gribble, *G. W. J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1*, 1045 (2000); Sundberg, in *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry II*, 2:119 (1996); Hughes, *Org. Prep. Proc. Int.*, 607 (1993)) The revolution of combinatorial chemistry of small molecules (*see*, Gordon, *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.*, 37(10):1385 (1994); Thompson, *et al.*, *Chem. Rev.*, 96:555 (1996); Balkenhohl, *et al.*, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 35:2288 (1996)) assured that the synthesis of indole containing lead compounds would be accelerated in a similar manner to all other scaffolds. (*see*, Hutchins, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 37(28):4869 (1996); Yun, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 37(40):7189 (1996); Hughes, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 37(42):7595 (1996); Cheng, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 38(9):1497 (1997); Fagnola, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 38(13):2307 (1997); Zhang, *et al.*, *J. Org. Chem.*, 62:1804 (1997); Arumugam, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 38(36):6473 (1997); Collini, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 38(46):7963

(1997); Fokas, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 39:2235 (1998); Zhang, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 39:4449 (1998); Smith, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 39:8317 (1998); Wang, Y. *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 39:9605 (1998); Stephensen, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 40:5799 (1999); Wang, *et al.*, *Org. Lett.*, 1(10):1647 (1999); Zhang, *et al.*, *Org. Lett.*, 2(1):89 (2000);
5 Kraxner, *et al.*, *Synlett*, (1):125 (2000); Tois, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 41:2443 (2000); Ketcha, *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 41:6253 (2000); Smith, *et al.*, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 10:2693 (2000); Stevenson, *et al.*, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 10:2697 (2000); Nettekoven, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 41:8251 (2000); Meseguer, *et al.*, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 6(21):3943 (2001); Cooper, *et al.*, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 11:1233 (2001).)

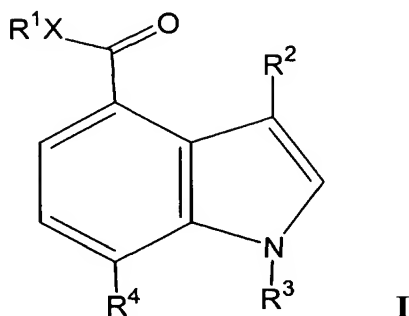
10 **[04]** Biologically important indoles have a variety of activities and are useful for a number of indications. For example, lysergic acid diethyl amide has an indole core and is a hallucinogen and CNS activator (*see*, Jenner, *et al.*, *Br. J. Pharmacol.*, 80, Suppl. 667P (1983); Kaiser, *et al.*, *Med. Res. Rev.*, 5:145 (1985)). This indole also has a
15 plethora of physiological effects (*see*, Bowers, *et al.*, *Biochem. Pharmacol.*, 31:4093 (1982); Mornex, *et al.*, *J. Pharmacol.*, 14 (Suppl. 3), 81 (1983)). Hippadine, another indole
containing core molecule, causes reversible inhibition of fertility in male rats without anti-
mitotic activity (*see*, Bowers, *et al.*, *Biochem. Pharmacol.*, 31:4093 (1982); Mornex, *et al.*,
J. Pharmacol., 14 (Suppl. 3), 81 (1983)). Moreover, (-)-7-octylindolactam V is a protein
20 kinase C modulator and it too has an indole core (*see*, Kazanietz *et al.*, *Mol. Pharmacol.*, 44:298 (1993)). The structural properties that these molecules share is their substitution at
the 4 and 7 positions of the indole nucleus.

[05] The tremendous variety of biological activities associated with indoles makes the indole nucleus very important biologically. What is needed in the art are new
indoles having a variety of substituents at the 4 and 7 positions of the indole ring. The
25 present invention satisfies this and other needs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[06] The present invention provides, compounds, compositions and
30 methods of making biologically important indoles. In addition, the present invention provides synthesis methods for substituting leaving groups at positions 4 and 7 of the indole
ring as diversity generating elements.

[07] As such, in one aspect, the present invention provides a compound having Formula I:



[08] In Formula I, R^1 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

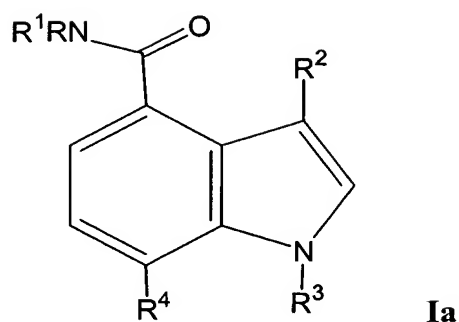
[09] R^2 , in Formula I, is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkylamino, and $C(O)-R^5$, wherein R^5 is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[10] R^3 , in Formula I, is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

[11] R^4 , in Formula I, is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and $S(O)_n-R^6$, wherein R^6 is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is an integer including 1, 2 or 3.

[12] X, in Formula I, is a functional group including, but not limited to, a heteroatom such as O and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl. In an alternative embodiment, R and R^2 together with the atoms to which they are attached, join to form an optionally substituted 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic ring.

[13] Certain compound of Formula I are preferred. For example, in one embodiment, preferred compounds have Formula Ia:



[14] In Formula Ia, R is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen and optionally substituted alkyl.

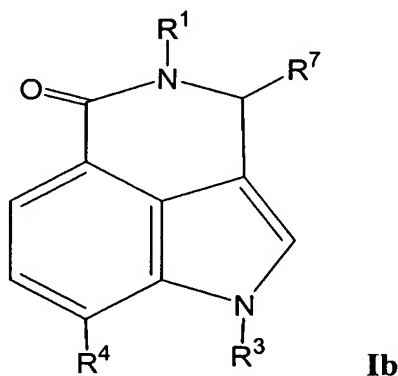
[15] R¹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[16] R² is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkylamino, and C(O)-R⁵, wherein R⁵ is a member selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[17] R³ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

[18] R⁴ is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and S(O)_n-R⁶, wherein R⁶ is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[19] In another preferred embodiment, the present invention provides compounds having Formula Ib:



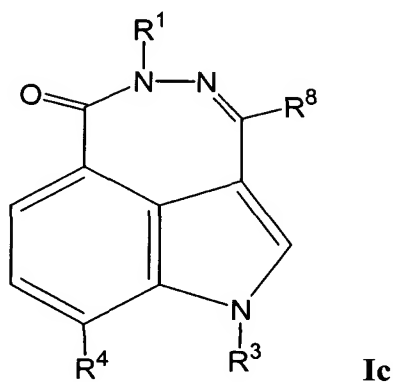
[20] In Formula Ib, R¹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[21] R³ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

[22] R⁴ is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and S(O)_n-R⁶, wherein R⁶ is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[23] R⁷ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl. In especially preferred embodiments of Formula Ib, R⁷ is hydrogen and R¹ is optionally substituted alkyl.

[24] In another preferred embodiment, the present invention provides a compound having Formula Ic:



[25] In Formula Ic, R¹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted hydrazino, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

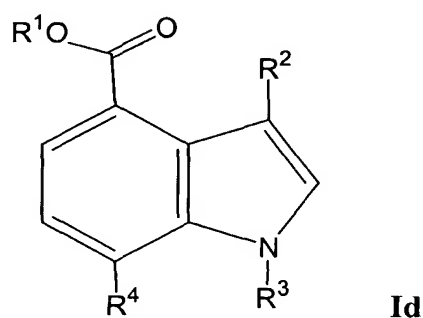
[26] R³ is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

[27] R⁴ is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and S(O)_n-R⁶, wherein R⁶ is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted

cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[28] R^8 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl. In especially preferred embodiments of Formula Ic, R^1 and R^8 are both hydrogen.

[29] In still yet another embodiment, the present invention provides a compound having Formula Id:



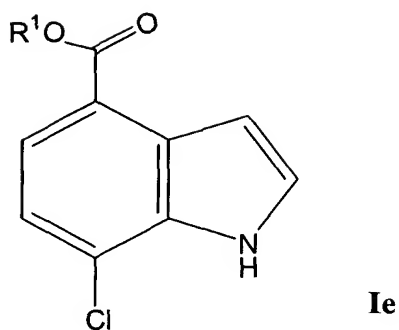
[30] In Formula Id, R^1 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[31] R^2 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, halogen, and $C(O)-R^5$, wherein R^5 is a member selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[32] R^3 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

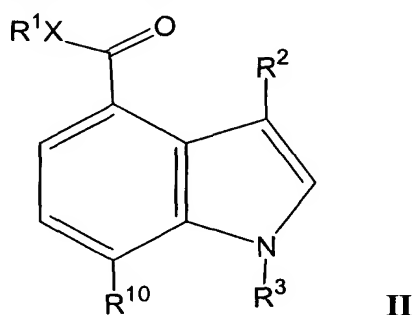
[33] R^4 is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, and $S(O)_n-R^6$, wherein R^6 is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[34] In another embodiment, the present invention provides a compound having Formula Ie:



[35] In Formula Ie, R^1 is a functional group including, but not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, wherein methyl is especially preferred.

[36] In still yet another embodiment, the present invention provides a
5 method of making a compound having Formula II:



[37] In Formula II, R^1 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally
10 substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[38] R^2 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkylamino, and $C(O)-R^5$, wherein R^5 is a member selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

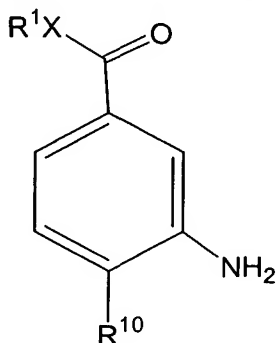
[39] R^3 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and
15 optionally substituted alkyl.

[40] R^{10} is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, and $S(O)_n-R^6$, wherein R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and
20 optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[41] X is a heteroatom including, but not limited to, O and NR, wherein R is a member selected from the group of hydrogen and optionally substituted alkyl, or,

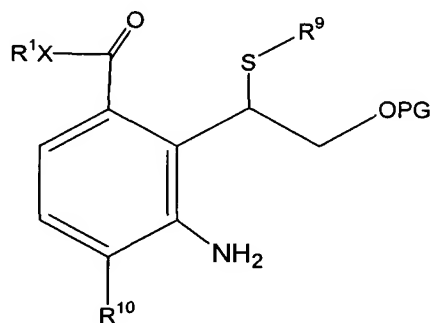
alternatively, R and R² together with the atoms to which they are attached, join to form an optionally substituted 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic ring, the method comprising:

[42] reacting a compound having Formula IIa:



IIa

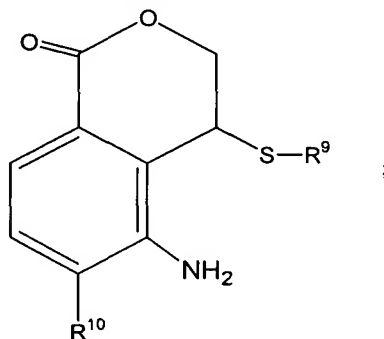
5 [43] with a sulfide to form a compound having a sulfide functionality having Formula IIb:



IIb

[44] wherein R⁹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl,
10 and optionally substituted heteroaryl and PG is a protective group;

cleaving the protecting group (PG) to form a compound having Formula IIc:



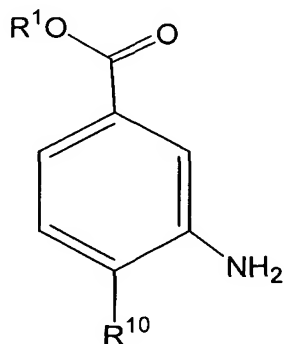
IIc

[45] protecting the primary amine to form a protected amine; and

[46] eliminating the sulfide functional group and subsequent alcoholysis to generate a compound of Formula II. The primary amine can be protected with for example, trifluoroacetic anhydride.

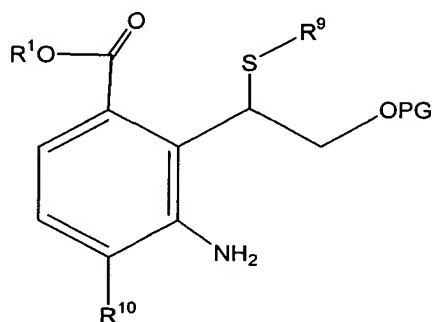
5 [47] In still yet another embodiment, the present invention provides a method for generating a pharmacophore scaffold by introducing leaving groups at positions 4 and 7 of an indole ring, the method comprising:

reacting a compound having Formula IIIa:



IIIa

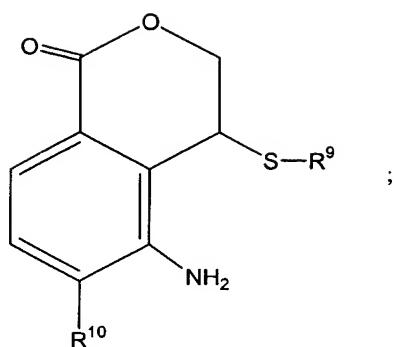
10 [48] with a sulfide to form a compound having a sulfide functionality having Formula IIIb:



IIIb

[49] wherein R⁹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl and PG is a protective group;

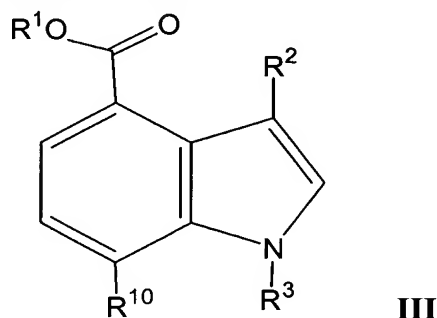
15 [50] cleaving the protecting group (PG) to form a compound having Formula IIIc:



IIIc

[51] protecting the primary amine to form a protected amine; and

[52] eliminating the sulfide functional group and subsequent alcoholysis to generate a pharmacophore scaffold with leaving groups at positions 4 and 7 of the indole ring to generate a compound having Formula III:



III

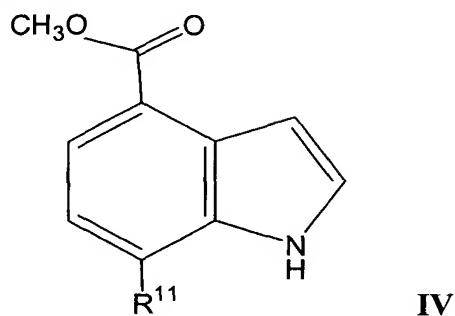
In Formula III, R^1 is a functional group including, but not limited to, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[53] R^2 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, halogen, and $C(O)-R^5$, wherein R^5 is a member selected from the group of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl.

[54] R^3 is a functional group including, but not limited to, hydrogen, and optionally substituted alkyl.

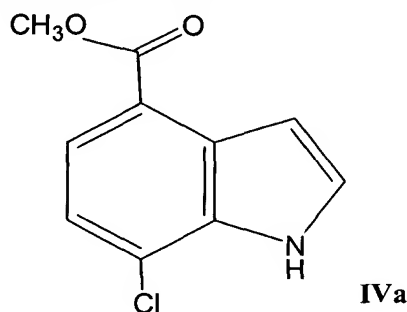
[55] R^{10} is a functional group including, but not limited to, halogen, and $S(O)_n-R^6$, wherein R^6 is a member selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

[56] In another embodiment, the present invention provides a method for making a compound having Formula IV:



[57] In Formula IV, R¹¹ is a functional group including, but not limited to, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl, the method comprising:

reacting a compound having Formula IVa:



[58] with an sp²-sp² C-C bond coupling group in the presence of a catalyst such as Pd, to generate a compound of Formula IV. A preferred sp²-sp² C-C bond coupling group is an aryl boronic acid moiety.

[59] These and other features, advantages and embodiments, will become more apparent when read with the accompanying drawings and detailed description that follow.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[60] FIG. 1 illustrates compounds having an indole core with a variety of biological activities.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

[61] As used herein, the term "alkyl" denotes branched or unbranched hydrocarbon chains, preferably having about 1 to about 24 carbons. These groups can be optionally substituted with one or more functional groups which are attached commonly to such chains, such as, hydroxyl, bromo, fluoro, chloro, iodo, mercapto or thio, cyano, alkylthio, heterocyclyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carboxyl, carbalkoyl, alkyl, alkenyl, nitro, amino, alkoxyl, amido, and the like to form alkyl groups such as trifluoro methyl, 3-hydroxyhexyl, 2-carboxypropyl, 2-fluoroethyl, carboxymethyl, cyanobutyl and the like.

[62] The term "alkenyl" denotes branched or unbranched hydrocarbon chains containing one or more carbon-carbon double bonds, preferably having about 8 to about 24 carbons.

[63] The term "cycloalkyl" by themselves or in combination with other terms represents cyclic versions of "alkyl" respectively. The term "cycloalkyl" is meant to include bicyclic, tricyclic and polycyclic versions thereof. Examples of cycloalkyl include cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 1-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, adamantyl, and the like.

[64] The terms "halo" or "halogen," by themselves or as part of another substituent, mean, unless otherwise stated, a fluorine, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atom. Additionally, terms such as "fluoroalkyl," are meant to include monofluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl.

[65] The term "aryl," employed alone or in combination with other terms (*e.g.*, aryloxy, arylthioxy, arylalkyl) means, unless otherwise stated, an aromatic substituent which can be a single ring or multiple rings (up to three rings) which are fused together or linked covalently. Non-limiting examples of aryl groups include phenyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 4-biphenyl, and the like. Substituents for each of the above noted aryl ring systems are selected from the group of acceptable substituents described below.

[66] The term "heteroaryl" means an aromatic substituent which can be a single ring or multiple rings having from 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O, and S, wherein the nitrogen and sulfur atoms are optionally oxidized, and the nitrogen atom(s) are optionally quaternized. The heteroaryl groups can be attached to the remainder of the molecule through a carbon atom or a heteroatom. Non-limiting examples of aryl groups

include 1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, pyrazinyl, 2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl, 3-isoxazolyl, 4-isoxazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl, 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyrimidyl, 4-pyrimidyl, 5-benzothiazolyl, purinyl, 2-benzimidazolyl, 5-indolyl, 1-
5 isoquinolyl, 5-isoquinolyl, 2-quinoxaliny, 5-quinoxaliny, 3-quinolyl, and 6-quinolyl.

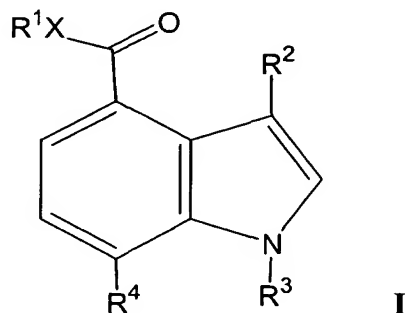
II. GENERAL

[67] Figure 1 sets forth three natural products having indole rings as a core. The compounds set forth therein have a variety of biological activities. For example,
10 lysergic acid diethyl amide **10** is a hallucinogen and CNS activator. Hippadine **12** causes reversible inhibition of fertility in male rats without anti-mitotic activity. In addition, (-)-7-octylindolactam V **15** is a protein kinase C modulator.

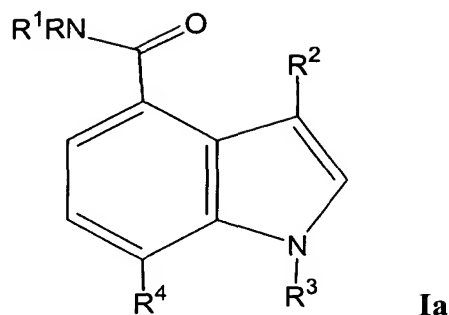
[68] The compounds and compositions of the present invention have a variety of biological activities including for example, CNS activation, reversible inhibition
15 of fertility in rats, and protein kinase C modulation.

III. COMPOUNDS

[69] In certain aspects, the present invention provides compounds and compositions useful in a variety of biological indications. In one embodiment, the present
20 invention provides a compound of Formula I:

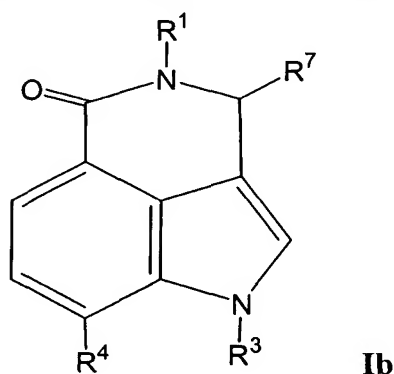


wherein: R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and X have previously been defined. In certain preferred instances, the compounds of Formula I have Formula Ia:



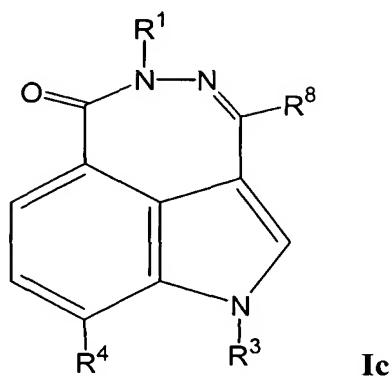
wherein R is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have been defined as in Formula I.

[70] In another embodiment, the compounds of Formula I have Formula Ib:



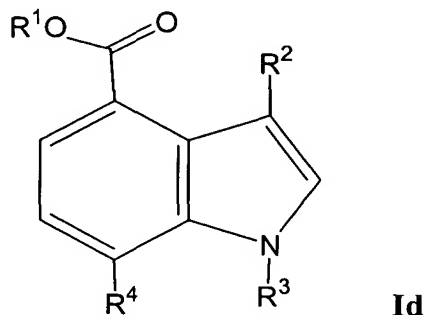
wherein: R^1 , R^3 and R^4 have been defined as in for Formula I. In Formula Ib, R^7 is a functional group such as hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl. In one preferred aspect, R^1 is hydrogen and R^7 is optionally substituted alkyl group, such a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and the like.

[71] In another embodiment, the compounds of Formula I have Formula Ic:



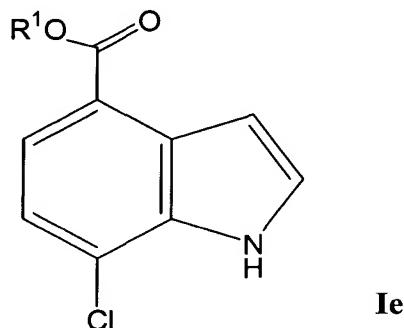
wherein: R^1 , R^3 , R^4 have been defined as in for Formula I. R^8 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, and optionally substituted heteroaryl. In one preferred aspect, R^1 and R^8 are both hydrogen.

[72] In another embodiment, the compounds of Formula I have Formula Id:



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have been defined as in Formula I.

[73] In another embodiment, the compound of Formula I has Formula Ie:



[74] wherein R^1 has been defined as in Formula I. Preferably, R^1 is methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, more preferably, R^1 is methyl.

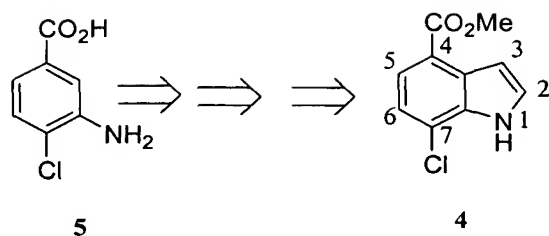
IV. METHODS

[75] In one embodiment, the present invention provides methods for generating substituted indoles having substituents at the 4 and 7 positions of the indole ring.

In certain aspects, using the multistep synthesis procedure of the present invention, an indole scaffold can be generated in good yield from commercially available starting materials.

Advantageously, the synthesis methods of the present invention are robust and scalable. In certain instances, a halide on the 4 position can be readily substituted using for example, palladium chemistry herein described.

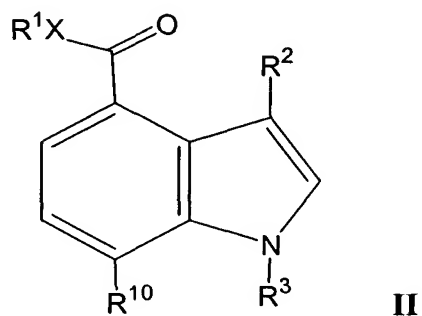
[76] Scheme 1 below illustrates starting material that can be used to generate compounds of the present invention.



Scheme 1

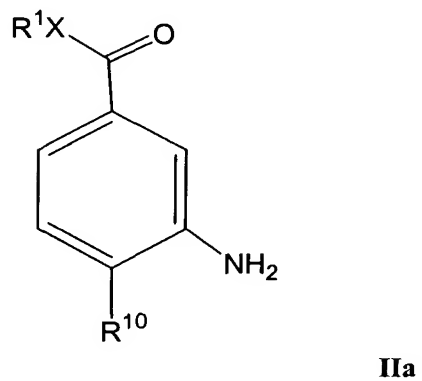
As shown in Scheme 1, positions 4 and 7 of compound **4** are substituted with good leaving groups to generate an indole pharmacophore scaffold.

[77] In certain aspects, the present invention provides a method of making a compound of Formula II:



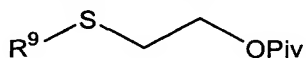
wherein: R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^{10} have previously been described.

[78] In one embodiment, the method comprises reacting a compound of Formula IIa:



10

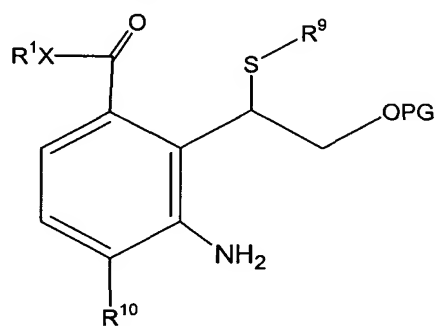
wherein: R^1 , R^{10} and X have previously been defined, with a sulfide functionality. Various sulfides can be use in the present methods. As used herein, sulfides include for example, alkylthio and arylthio functional groups. In one preferred embodiment, the sulfide suitable for use in the present methods is a sulfide having Formula II d:



15

[79] wherein R^9 is for example, an optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl group. In certain aspects, the sulfide functional group is activated using for example, sulfonyl chloride. Preferably, the sulfide functional group is coupled to a compound of Formula IIa at low temperature in the presence of a hindered base, such as collidine. Those of skill in the art will know of other hindered bases suitable for use in the present methods.

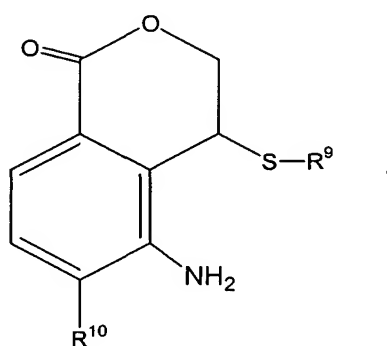
[80] Reacting the sulfide functional group with a compound of Formula IIa will generate a compound of Formula IIb:



IIb

wherein PG is a protecting group. Suitable protecting groups include esters such as acetate esters, pivalate esters, benzoate esters and the like. Bulky esters such as a pivalate ester, are preferred.

[81] Thereafter, the protecting group (PG) is cleaved to form a compound having Formula IIc:

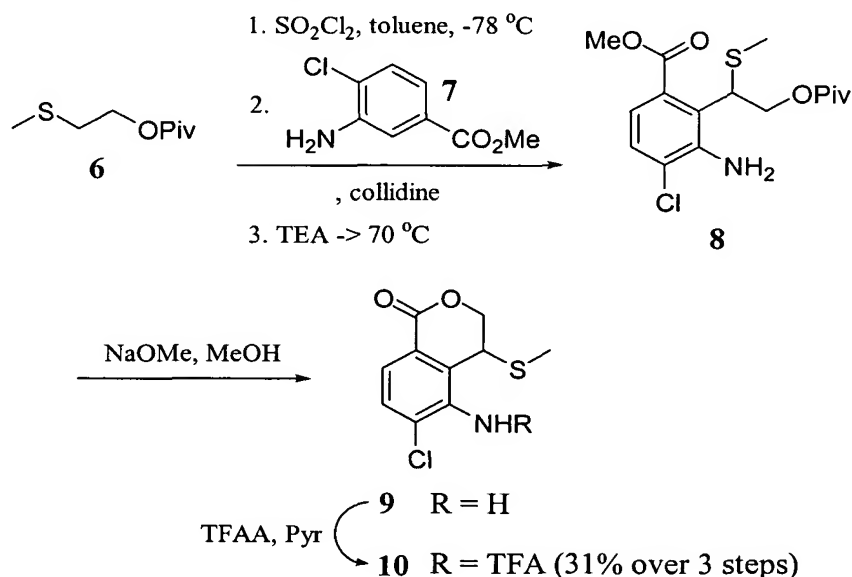


IIc

[82] the primary amine is protected to form a protected amine; and thereafter, the sulfide functional group is eliminated, with subsequent alcoholysis to generate a compound of Formula II.

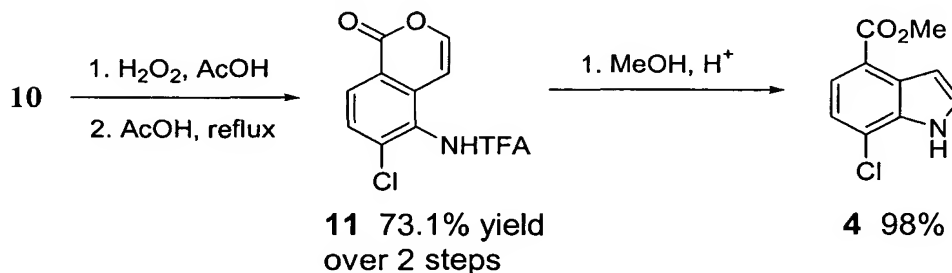
[83] In an illustrative embodiment, not in any way intended to be limiting, Scheme II sets forth an example of the present method. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize many other variations, alternatives, and modifications.

[84] In this example, sulfide **6**, which is available in high yields from 2-methylthioethanol, is coupled with methyl-3-chloro-4-aminobenzoate (**7**) (available on large scale in high yield from **5**) to form a sulfilimine (Scheme 2). Activation of **6** using for example, SO_2Cl_2 , generates an electrophilic species which couples with **7**. The reaction is preferably run at low temperature in the presence of a hindered base. The resulting sulfilimine is then treated with for example, triethylamine and heated to generate, after aqueous workup, a rearrangement product **8**. In certain aspects, the sulfilimine is heated to about 40°C to about 100°C , more preferably about 50°C to about 80°C .



Scheme 2

[85] Treatment of **8** with for example, NaOMe in MeOH, will effectuate the cleavage of the pivalate ester and subsequent spontaneous cyclization to the lactone (**9**). The lactone **9** is treated with TFAA and pyridine, which results in trifluoroacetamide **10**. Isolation of **10** is via crystallization.



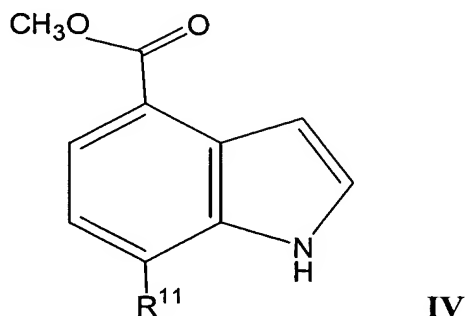
Scheme 3

[86] To generate **4** from **10**, the sulfide is eliminated to generate a double bond. This can be accomplished, by for example, oxidizing the sulfide to the sulfoxides

with an oxidizing agent such as hydrogen peroxide (*e.g.*, using a stoichiometric amount), and eliminating methyl sulfinic acid by for example, refluxing in a weak acid (*e.g.*, AcOH) to generate the isocoumarin **11** as a solid (*see*, Scheme 3).

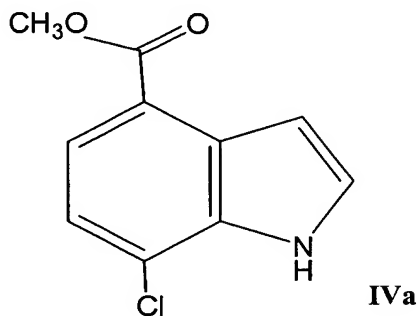
5 [87] Treatment of **11** with a mineral acid (*e.g.*, sulfuric acid) in refluxing alkanol (*e.g.*, methanol) affords **4** as a pure substance in good yield after aqueous workup.

[88] In still another embodiment, the present invention provides a method for making a compound having Formula IV:



wherein: R¹¹ has been defined.

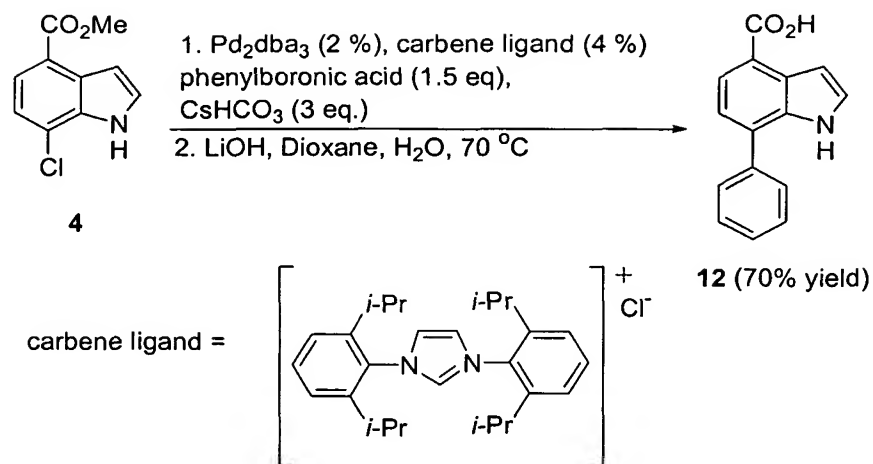
10 [89] The method comprises reacting a compound having Formula IVa:



15 [90] with an sp²-sp² C-C bond coupling group in the presence of a Pd catalyst, to generate the compound of Formula IVa. A preferred sp²-sp² C-C bond coupling group is an aryl boronic acid moiety, such as phenylboronic acid. Those of skill in the art will know of other aryl boronic acid moieties suitable for use in the present invention.

[91] In the present methods, palladium catalyzed carbon-carbon bond forming chemistry can be used to couple a sp²-sp² C-C bond at position 7 of an indole ring. In certain preferred embodiments, the method for making 7-substituted indoles is set forth in Scheme 4. This example is merely illustrative and is not intended to limit the invention.

20 [92] Because it is known that the indole NH is reactive in palladium mediated reactions, CsHCO₃ or a similar reagent can be used to prevent such side reactions. The coupling chemistry is efficient. As the products can be purified by extraction into aqueous base, purification is facile.



Scheme 4

[93] Compound 12 can thereafter be modified at position 4. For example, amides can be made using a stoichiometric amount of the carboxylic acid, amine and solvent (*e.g.*, DMAP in DMF) with 1.1 equivalents of a promoter (*e.g.*, EDCI). Suitable amines include, but are not limited to, primary amines, secondary amines, alkylamines, arylamines, and heterocyclic amines. The heterocyclic amines can be aromatic. Specific examples include, butylamine, phenylamine, dipropylamine and the like. The reactions can be run in parallel with multiwell plates. For example, the wells are charged with the parent indole acids and thereafter with amines.

V. COMPOSITIONS AND DOSES

[94] In certain aspects, the present invention provides compounds and compositions useful in a variety of biological indications. An effective quantity of the compound of interest is employed in various treatments. The dosage of compounds used in accordance with the invention varies depending on the compound and the condition being treated. The age, weight, and clinical condition of the recipient patient; and the experience and judgment of the clinician or practitioner administering the therapy are among the factors affecting the selected dosage. Other factors include the route of administration the patient, the patient's medical history, the severity of the disease process, and the potency of the particular compound. The dose should be sufficient to ameliorate symptoms or signs of the disease treated without producing unacceptable toxicity to the patient.

[95] Broadly, an oral dosing schedule is from about 100 to about 600 mg twice a day. More typically, a single dose is about 100-200 mg of compound given twice a

day. A convenient oral dose for an adult patient is 200 mg twice a day. A dosage range for topical treatment is about 0.1% to about 10% (weight/volume) in a cream or ointment, applied twice a day. A usual dose for intra-articular injection is 20-40 mg injected per joint, not generally exceeding three joints per therapy session. A typical dosage for intra-dermal administration is about 20-75 mg per injection per site. A typical dosage for intravenous or intramuscular administration in an adult patient would be between 1 mg and 1000 mg per day given in single or divided doses depending on the judgment of the practitioner.

[96] Typically, the dosage is administered at least once a day until a therapeutic result is achieved. Preferably, the dosage is administered twice a day, but more or less frequent dosing can be recommended by the clinician. Once a therapeutic result is achieved, the drug can be tapered or discontinued. Occasionally, side effects warrant discontinuation of therapy. In general, an effective amount of the compound is that which provides either subjective relief of symptoms or an objectively identifiable improvement as noted by the clinician or other qualified observer.

[97] In other aspects, the compounds of the present invention are given independently for uses specified herein, or are given as adjuvants, *i.e.*, in combination with existing pharmacological therapeutic agent or agents or other pharmaceutical agent or agents yet to be discovered.

[98] The foregoing is offered primarily for purposes of illustration. It will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the operating conditions, materials, procedural steps and other parameters of the system described herein may be further modified or substituted in various ways without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the invention has been described with human patients as the usual recipient, but veterinary use is also contemplated.

VI. Experimental Section

A. General Experimental Details.

[99] Unless otherwise stated glassware was air dried prior to use with no special precautions taken for drying. All solvents stated as anhydrous were purchased that way from the manufacturer and used as received. All other purchased reagents were used as received. Unless otherwise stated, all reactions were carried out under a positive pressure of nitrogen. NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker DPX-400 instrument and the data were

reported as follows: chemical shift on the δ scale (using residual protio solvent as the internal standard), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), integration and coupling constant in hertz. ^{13}C spectra were recorded as APT experiments on a Bruker DPX-400 (100 MHz) instrument and were reported in ppm with residual solvent for internal standard. Melting points were obtained on a Thomas Hoover Uni-Melt apparatus. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Avatar 380 FT-IR instrument.

[100] 2-Methylthioethyl pivalate (6). (U.S. Patent No. 2,680,730, 1950, DuPont de Nemours and Co.) A 2 L flask was charged with methylthioethanol (100.93 g, 1.095 mol), methylene chloride (500 mL) and pyridine (95.3 g, 1.204 mol). The flask was then cooled in an ice/water bath. Pivaloyl chloride (139 g/ 1.150 mol) was then added slowly via pressure equalizing addition funnel (~1 hr). The reaction was stirred overnight and then quenched with MeOH (10 mL). After 30 min, the reaction was extracted with 3 200 mL portions of aqueous ^1N HCl. The organics were dried over MgSO_4 and the solvent was removed. After keeping the material at 15 mbar and 30 °C for 30 min on a rotary evaporator, the material was solvent free and yielded 186.9 g (96.8%) of an oil: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 1.22 (s, 9H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 2.73 (dd, 2H, $J_1 = J_2 = 6.8$), 4.24 (dd, 2H, $J_1 = J_2 = 6.8$); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 27.4, 32.8, 38.9, 63.2, 178.6; IR (neat) 2971.2, 2916.6, 2869.7, 1725.6; GC-MS calcd. for $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$) 176, found 176.

[101] Methyl-3-amino-4-chlorobenzoate (7). A 5 liter, 3 neck roundbottom flask was charged with 3-amino-4-chlorobenzoic acid (**5**) (670 g, 3.905 mol). This material was then treated with MeOH (1340 mL) and trimethyl orthoformate (456 g, 4.295 mol). The flask was then equipped with mechanical stirring an efficient condenser with a drying tube (drierite) and a pressure equalizing addition funnel. The reaction was then heated to 60°C and sulfuric acid (421 g, 4.295 mol) was added at such a rate as to keep the reflux from being too vigorous. It is essential to maintain good stirring during this operation. After the addition was complete, the reaction was refluxed until all the solid dissolved (~2 h). The MeOH was then distilled with the pot temperature at 80°C until a solid came out of solution. The heating bath was removed and 1.2 L of EtOAc was added to the reaction. After standing overnight, the resulting solid was collected. The mother liquors were evaporated until the total volume was less than 1 L and a copious amount of solid had come out. This material was also collected by filtration and the 2 batches were combined in a 5 L flask. The material was treated with 1 L each of water and EtOAc. After all the material dissolved, the reaction was treated with 200 g of NaOH in portions. The organic layer was collected and

washed twice with 500 mL portions of 1 M aqueous NaOH, dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed. The resulting solid was dried under high vacuum overnight to yield 580 g (80.0 %) of solid: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 3.90 (s, 3H), 4.25 (broad s, 1H), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.3), 7.36 (dd, 1H, *J*₁ = 8.3, *J*₂ = 1.9), 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.9); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 52.4, 116.8, 120.1, 124.1, 129.6, 129.8, 143.1; IR (neat) 3468.7, 3360.8, 1710.9, 1626.2; HRMS calcd. for C₈H₈ClNO₂ (M + H⁺) 186.0316, found 186.0312.

[102] Compound 10. A 3-neck 3 L roundbottom flask was equipped with mechanical stirring and was charged with 2-methylthioethyl pivalate (**6**) (52.2 g, 296 mmol) and dry toluene (1.5 L). The flask was cooled in a dry ice/acetone bath (internal temperature of -60°C) and sulfonyl chloride (38.2 g, 283 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction via cannula. The reaction was stirred cold for 2 h. A solution of methyl-3-amino-4-chlorobenzoate (**7**) (50 g, 269 mmol) in collidine (65.2 g, 538 mmol) was then added over 45 minutes into the stirring cooled solution of activated sulfide. The reaction became homogenous during the addition. The cooling was discontinued and the reaction was allowed warm up. Triethylamine (43.6 g, 431 mmol) was added when the internal temperature of the reaction reached 0°C and a voluminous precipitate was observed. The reaction was heated to 70°C overnight. After cooling, the reaction was extracted with 1 portion of water (500 mL), 2 portions of 6 N aqueous HCl (500 mL each) 2 portions of concentrated HCl (50 mL each), 2 portions of 1 M NaOH (500 mL each) and finally a mixture of saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and saturated NaCl (250 mL each). The organics were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed. The residue was dissolved in dry MeOH (100 mL) and treated with a solution of 25% NaOMe in MeOH (12 mL). After stirring for 4 h, the reaction was quenched with acetic acid (8 mL) and the solvent was removed. The reaction was then partitioned between EtOAc and water and extracted with water again and then with aqueous 0.5 M K₂HPO₄ buffer. The organic phase was then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride (300 mL), treated with pyridine (23.3 g, 293 mmol) and cooled in an ice/water bath. Trifluoroacetic anhydride (49.2 g, 234 mmol) was added slowly *via* dropping funnel. After the addition was complete, the reaction was extracted with aqueous 1 M HCl (300 mL) and the organic phase was cooled in a refrigerator overnight. The resulting solid was collected in 2 crops and dried under high vacuum to yield 29.46 g (32.2 %) m.p. 197-200: ¹H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ 2.13 (s, 3H), 4.71 (dd, 1H, *J*₁ = 12.2, *J*₂ = 1.2), 4.76 (dd, 1H, *J*₁ = 12.2, *J*₂ = 2.5), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5), 8.02 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5), 11.52 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR

(DMSO, 100 MHz) δ 15.2, 38.8, 70.0, 115.3, 118.1, 125.6, 130.6, 130.9, 131.6, 138.9, 163.4; IR (neat) 3281.6, 1710.6; HRMS (MALDI-FTMS) calcd. for $C_{12}H_9ClF_3NO_3S$ ($M + Na^+$) 361.9836, found 361.9849.

[103] **Compound 11.** A suspension of **10** (35 g, 103.0 mmol) in acetic acid (100 mL) was treated with an aqueous solution of titrated H_2O_2 (11.675 g of a 30.02% by weight solution, 103.0 mmol). The reaction was stirred overnight. The solvent was removed and the reaction was co evaporated once with acetic acid. The residue was dissolved in 200 mL of acetic acid and the reaction was evacuated and back filled with nitrogen 3 times. The solution was then refluxed for 3.5 h, cooled and the solvent was mostly removed (caution: stench). The residue was triturated with methylene chloride and cooled in a refrigerator overnight. Collection yielded 21.95 g (73.1 %) of an off-white solid m.p. (215-218): 1H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ 6.69 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$), 7.69 (d, 1H, $J = 5.8$), 7.84 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$), 8.21 (d, 1H, $J = 8.6$), 11.69 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ 101.9, 114.4, 117.3, 120.7, 127.3, 129.7, 130.5, 135.6, 139.0, 147.9, 155.6, 155.9, 160.2; IR (neat) 3194.2, 3038.1, 1712.0; HRMS (MALDI-FTMS) calcd. for $C_{11}H_5ClF_3NO_3$ ($M - H^-$) 289.9837, found 289.9844.

[104] **4-Carbomethoxy-7-chloroindole (4).** A suspension of **11** (21.95 g, 75.27 mmol) in MeOH (150 mL) was treated with H_2SO_4 (29.5 g, 301 mmol) and refluxed overnight. The reaction was cooled and the solvent was removed without warming up the bath. The residue was picked up in EtOAc and poured into a rapidly stirring solution of aqueous sodium hydroxide (30 g) in water (200 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted once more with EtOAc and the combined organics were dried over $MgSO_4$ and the solvent was removed to yield 15.5 g (98%) of **4** as a solid m.p. (): 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 400 MHz) δ 4.01 (s, 3H), 7.24-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.42 (dd, 1H, $J_1 = J_2 = 2.6$), 7.88 (d, 1H, $J = 8.1$), 8.61 (s, 1H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 100 MHz) δ 52.1, 105.5, 121.0, 122.0, 124.5, 127.0; IR (neat) 3290.4, 1679.7 ; HRMS calcd. for $C_{10}H_8ClNO_2$ ($M + H^+$) 210.0316, found 210.0316.

[105] The following is a representative procedure for the functionalization of **1** using a boronic acid reagent: A 100 mL roundbottom flask was equipped with a 3-way stopcock and a magnetic stir bar and flame dried under vacuum. The flask was then back-filled with nitrogen and charged with 4-carbomethoxy-7-chloroindole (**4**) (2 g, 9.54 mmol), Pd_2dba_3 (109 mg, 119 μ mol), carbene ligand (Huang, *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 9889-90 (1999)) (203 mg, 477 μ mol), aryl-or vinylboronic acid (2.32 g, 14.3 mmol), and $CsHCO_3$ prepared as described above (5.55 g, 28.6 mmol). The flask was then evacuated and back

filled with nitrogen again and charged with 1,4-dioxane (20 mL) under positive nitrogen pressure. The flask was then sealed and dipped into a pre-heated 80°C bath. After stirring at this temperature overnight, the solvent was removed and the reaction was partitioned between EtOAc and a mixture of water and brine (1:1). The organics were extracted once
5 more with a similar mixture (if desired, the reaction mass may be filtered through a plug of celite to help in the workup). The organics were dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent was removed. The residue was passed through a short silica gel plug eluting with EtOAc to remove Pd impurities and the solvent was removed. The residue was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (30 mL) and heated to 70°C. The reaction was then treated with a solution of LiOH
10 (685 mg, 28.6 mmol) in water (10 mL). Some precipitate was observed. After stirring at the same temperature for 3 h, the reaction was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed. The reaction was partitioned between EtOAc (~40 mL) and 1 M aqueous NaOH (~40 mL). The organics were extracted 3 times more (~40 mL each) with base solution and discarded. The combined base extracts were acidified with concentrated HCl. The resulting
15 solid was collected by filtration, washed thoroughly with water and then once with hexane. If the indole acid was not freely soluble in MeOH or diethyl ether, then the material was washed once with either one of these solvents. The resulting solid was collected and dried under high vacuum overnight.

[106] The following is a representative procedure for the arylation of **1** using
20 a tributylstannyl reagent: A 50 mL Schlenk flask was equipped with a magnetic stir bar and flame dried under vacuum. The flask was then back-filled with nitrogen and charged with 4-carbomethoxy-7-chloroindole (**4**) (2 g, 9.54 mmol) and Pd₂dba₃ (349 mg, 0.38 mmol). The flask was then evacuated and back filled with nitrogen. The tributylstannyl reagent (11.2 mmol) was added along with 1,4-dioxane (20 mL) and a 0.5 M solution of P(*t*-Bu)₃ in 1,4-
25 dioxane (3.04 mL, 1.52 mmol). The flask was then sealed and dipped into a pre-heated 120°C bath. After stirring overnight, the reaction was approx. 90% complete. The reaction was applied to a silica gel plug and eluted with EtOAc. The solvent was removed and the reaction was crystallized from toluene (1.1 g). The mother liquors from the crystallization were eluted through a column using 10% EtOAc in dichloromethane and crystallized again
30 from toluene to yield and additional gram of material. The combined solids were dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (30 mL) and heated to 70°C. The reaction was then treated with a solution of LiOH (635 mg, 28.6 mmol) in water (10 mL). After 3 h, the solvent was removed and the reaction was partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organics were extracted with 1 M aqueous NaOH 5 times and discarded. The combined aqueous extracts were acidified with

concentrated HCl and the resulting solid was collected and dried under high vacuum to afford the title material.

[107] 12. m.p. (197-198); ¹H NMR (DMSO, 400 MHz) δ 7.09 (dd, 1H, *J*₁ = 2.9, *J*₂ = 1.9), 7.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7), 7.45-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.59 (m, 2H), 7.66-7.71 (m, 2H), 7.82 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.7), 11.24 (s, 1H), 12.58 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz) δ 102.9, 120.5, 123.0, 127.9, 128.2, 128.4, 129.0, 129.8, 133.8, 137.9, 168.3; IR (neat) 3451.6, 3428.2, 1662.3; HRMS (MALDI-FTMS) calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁NO₂ (M + H⁺) 238.0863, found 238.0861.

[108] All publications and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication or patent application were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of this invention that certain changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.